

**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2015-\_\_\_\_**  
**DECLARATION OF MAJOR DISASTER AND SIGNIFICANT EMERGENCY IN**  
**THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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**WHEREAS**, on August 2, 2015, Typhoon Soudelor struck the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

**WHEREAS**, Typhoon Soudelor caused significant damage to public and private property, the full extent of which is presently unknown;

**WHEREAS**, the disruption of critical infrastructure poses a significant threat to the peace, health, and safety of the Commonwealth's residents;

**WHEREAS**, the present conditions threaten the public peace, health, and safety;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, RALPH DLG. TORRES**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Acting Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by Article III, § 10 of the Commonwealth Constitution and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Act of 2013, 1 CMC §§ 20141-20147, do hereby issue a Declaration of Major Disaster and Significant Emergency in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**I HEREBY INVOKE MY AUTHORITY** under Article III, § 10 of the Commonwealth Constitution and 1 CMC § 20144(c) to protect the health and safety of the people of the Commonwealth. Accordingly, the following is hereby **ORDERED**:

**I. EXEMPTION FROM REGULATIONS**

The Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office shall provide assistance and support to the people of the Commonwealth. In doing so, the Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, any government agency acting pursuant to its request, and any private person or entity acting pursuant to its request, is hereby granted a temporary exemption from any Commonwealth regulation that would tend to prevent, hinder, or delay any action the Homeland Security Office deems necessary when assisting and supporting the Commonwealth in its recovery from Typhoon Soudelor. However, the Homeland Security Office, other government agencies, and private persons or entities temporarily exempted from such regulations under this provision must continue to comply with regulations that would not tend to prevent, hinder, or delay actions the Homeland Security Office deems necessary to carry out this order. On or about September 15, 2015, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office shall prepare and submit a report to the Office of the Governor that details any actions taken under this section.

## **II. GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY**

The Office of the Governor hereby invokes its authority to utilize all available government resources necessary to respond to this Declaration of Major Disaster and State of Significant Emergency. The Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office is hereby authorized to utilize all available government equipment and property in the Commonwealth to respond to this Declaration of Major Disaster and State of Significant Emergency.

## **III. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

The Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office may, after consultation with the Office of the Governor, temporarily transfer the direction, personnel, and functions of government agencies to facilitate its response and recovery programs.

## **IV. TRANSPORTATION**

The Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office may prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in consultation with public safety authorities for the provision of emergency services.

## **V. AUTHORITY TO LIMIT AND CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN STRICKEN AND THREATENED PUBLIC AREAS**

The Commonwealth Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office may control or limit ingress and egress to and from any stricken or threatened public area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein, if such actions are reasonable and necessary to facilitate its response or recovery programs.

## **VI. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The Office of the Governor will seek aid from the federal government if any such aid is available and necessary.

## **VII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Declaration of Major Disaster and State of Significant Emergency shall take effect immediately and all memoranda, directives, and other measures taken in accordance with this Declaration shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days from the date of this Executive Order.

Done this 3rd day of August, 2015.

  
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RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Acting Governor